

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of user defined preferred DNS routing, the method comprising:  
  
mapping for a user in a data communications application a domain name of a  
network host to a network address for a preferred DNS server, wherein the  
5 preferred DNS server has a network address for the domain name, and  
wherein mapping a domain name to a network address for a preferred DNS  
server further comprises receiving from a user a domain name for a network  
host having a domain name registered on a preferred DNS server and  
receiving from the user a network address for the preferred DNS server;  
10  
receiving from the user a request for access to a resource accessible through  
the network host; and  
  
routing to the preferred DNS server a DNS request for the network address of  
15 the network host, the DNS request including the domain name of the network  
host.  
  
2. The method of claim 1 wherein mapping a domain name to a network address  
for a preferred DNS server further comprises storing, through the data  
communication application, the domain name in association with the network  
address for a preferred DNS server in a data structure in computer memory.  
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3. The method of claim 1 wherein routing a DNS request for the network address  
of the network host is carried out by the data communications application.  
4. The method of claim 1 wherein routing a DNS request for the network address  
of the network host is carried out by an operating system.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein routing a DNS request for the network address of the network host is carried out by a predesignated DNS server.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- 5 receiving from the preferred DNS server a DNS response identifying the network address of the network host; and
- accessing the resource through the network address of the network host.
- 10 7. A system for user defined preferred DNS routing, the system comprising:
- means for mapping for a user in a data communications application a domain name of a network host to a network address for a preferred DNS server,
- 5 wherein the preferred DNS server has a network address for the domain name, and wherein means for mapping a domain name to a network address for a preferred DNS server further comprises means for receiving from a user a domain name for a network host having a domain name registered on a preferred DNS server and means for receiving from the user a network
- 10 address for the preferred DNS server;
- means for receiving from the user a request for access to a resource accessible through the network host; and
- 15 means for routing to the preferred DNS server a DNS request for the network address of the network host, the DNS request including the domain name of the network host.
8. The system of claim 7 wherein means for mapping a domain name to a network address for a preferred DNS server further comprises means for

5 storing, through the data communication application, the domain name in association with the network address for a preferred DNS server in a data structure in computer memory.

9. The system of claim 7 wherein means for routing a DNS request for the network address of the network host further comprises the data communications application.
10. The system of claim 7 wherein means for routing a DNS request for the network address of the network host further comprises an operating system.
11. The system of claim 7 wherein means for routing a DNS request for the network address of the network host further comprises a predesignated DNS server.
12. The system of claim 7 further comprising:

5 means for receiving from the preferred DNS server a DNS response identifying the network address of the network host; and

means for accessing the resource through the network address of the network host.

13. A computer program product for user defined preferred DNS routing, the computer program product comprising:

5 a recording medium;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for mapping for a user in a data communications application a domain name of a network host to a network address for a preferred DNS server, wherein the preferred DNS server has a

10 network address for the domain name, and wherein means, recorded on the  
recording medium, for mapping a domain name to a network address for a  
preferred DNS server further comprises means, recorded on the recording  
medium, for receiving from a user a domain name for a network host having a  
domain name registered on a preferred DNS server and means, recorded on  
the recording medium, for receiving from the user a network address for the  
15 preferred DNS server;

means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from the user a  
request for access to a resource accessible through the network host; and  
20 means, recorded on the recording medium, for routing to the preferred DNS  
server a DNS request for the network address of the network host, the DNS  
request including the domain name of the network host.

14. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means, recorded on the  
recording medium, for mapping a domain name to a network address for a  
preferred DNS server further comprises means, recorded on the recording  
medium, for storing, through the data communication application, the domain  
5 name in association with the network address for a preferred DNS server in a  
data structure in computer memory.

15. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein means, recorded on the  
recording medium, for routing a DNS request for the network address of the  
network host further comprises the data communications application.

16. The computer program product of claim 13 further comprising:  
  
means, recorded on the recording medium, for receiving from the preferred  
DNS server a DNS response identifying the network address of the network  
5 host; and

means, recorded on the recording medium, for accessing the resource through the network address of the network host.